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*for 11/12 2/7/78 line*  
**United States Senate**

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

July 18, 1978

**AR 155A** *R*

Mrs. Patricia Derian  
Director  
Human Rights Affairs  
Department of State  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Derian:

It has come to my attention that towards the end of 1976 mothers, wives and grandmothers of persons who have been detained for political reasons in Argentina began to organize themselves to bring pressure on the military leadership of Argentina to determine the status of the political detainees in that country. It is my understanding that these women met in small groups every week in the central square of Buenos Aires' Plaza de Mayo in front of the "Rose House" in order to intercede for their relatives. There have been reports that they have been harrassed, arrested, imprisoned, and probably killed. I would appreciate it if you could provide me with information on this matter. If the allegations are, in fact, correct, what steps is our government taking in light of the Administration's human rights policy?

Sincerely,

*Frank Church*  
Frank Church

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Declassify on \_\_\_\_\_ Reason \_\_\_\_\_